

Project Summary

Vegetation Management for Seattle Park Viewpoints

The City of Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) has recognized the value of the regions natural and built resources by acquiring view properties of the Olympic and Cascade mountain ranges, Puget Sound, local lakes, and the downtown skyline. The extent of intended views varies with each site and are determined and protected by visual guidelines set by the State Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) in the document, *Seattle Views*, 2002. Many of the city's viewpoints have become threatened due to visual obstruction from native trees and invasive vegetation that inhabit the sites. The Urban Forestry staff of SPR directed this study in an effort to develop a strategy for addressing the restoration and long-term maintenance of these parks.

Evaluations of more than 35 sites were performed to provide vegetation and site analysis that could be used to develop restoration projects. These projects were organized into three Maintenance Categories:

- 1) Canopy Conversion** –Site renovation through tree pruning and removal, control of invasive weeds and restoration planting
- 2) Pruning and Invasive Weed Removal** –View restoration by tree pruning and weed removal
- 3) Slope Stability and Erosion Control** –Site restoration includes erosion control and/or slope stability concerns

Based on need, twenty-four park sites were selected from those evaluated for the development of Vegetation Management Plans (VMP) and were assigned one of the three Maintenance Categories for site renovation. In addition to maintenance prescriptions, Landscape Management Zones were defined to indicate areas requiring restoration:

- Zone 1 – Developed Park Landscape** areas
- Zone 2 – Transition** areas at the top of slopes
- Zone 3 – Hillside** or shoreline locations

Each park has been mapped locating the relevant management zones. Parks selected for VMP's will provide prototypes for developing future vegetation management templates for other viewpoint parks as the needs arise.

The narrative section of this report describes the approach and criteria used in determining the scope of work and tasks needed to both 1) restore views and 2) provide long-term care to manage park land and maintain views. The following issues were considered to assign project priority and phasing: availability of financial resources, visual and physical needs, park use and

concurrent landscape projects. Final project priority will be determined through the collaborative efforts of the Urban Forestry and Park Maintenance staff. The individual Viewpoint projects will follow all applicable Park and City policies and procedures including internal review by Landscape and Engineering professionals, all appropriate levels of public involvement, and reviews of applicability of SEPA procedures.

VIEWPOINT MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

				WORK REQUIRED						MANAGEMENT ZONES			MAINTENANCE FREQUENCY		
Viewpoint Park	% intended view (2004 status)	Maintenance Priority	Critical Area / Steep Slope	Tree Pruning	Tree Removal	Slope and Erosion Control	Invasive Weed Removal	Replanting	Canopy Conversion	ZONE 1 Landscape	ZONE 2 Transition	ZONE 3 Hillside	5 - yr cycle	3 -yr cycle	Annual
1. Canopy Conversion															
Betty Bowen (Marshall)	40	Highest	Yes	X	X		X		X		X	X			X
Lakeview Park	75	Highest	Yes	X	X	X	X		X			X		X	
Louisa Boren Viewpoint	65	Second	Yes	X	X	X	X		X		X	X		X	
Riverview Playfield Park	30	Highest	Yes	X	X		X		X		X	X			X
Dr. Jose Rizal Park	90	Highest	Yes	X		X			X		X	X		X	
2. Tree Pruning and/or Invasive Removal															
Boren-Pike-Pine (4-Columns)	80	Second		X			X	X		X	X	X	X		
Discovery Park/Daybrk Star	75	Third	Yes	X			X	X			X	X		X	
East Portal - I-90 Overlook	95	Third	Yes	X				X					X		
McCurdy Park	10	Highest	Yes	X			X					X	X		
Montlake Playfield Park	10	Highest		X	X		X		X			X		X	
Myrtle Edwards Park	95	Third	Yes	X			X	X		X			X		
Rainbow Point (Banner Place)	80	Third		X								X	X		
Roanoke Street Mini-Park	50	Second		X		X	X	X		X		X	X		
Sunset Hill Park	90	Second	Yes	X			X				X	X		X	
Twelfth Avenue South Park	85	Third	Yes	X		X	X				X	X	X		
Viretta Park	50	Second	Yes	X			X			X		X	X		
West Seattle Golf Course	75	Third		X						X		X	X		
West Seattle Rotary Park	50	Highest			X	X	X				X	X		X	
3. Slope Stability and Erosion Control															
Bagley Park Viewpoint	50	Second	Yes	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X	
Bhy Kracke Park	25	Highest	Yes	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X	
Commodore Park	50	Second	Yes	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X	
Kobe Terrace Park	90	Third	Yes	X		X		X		X			X		X
Mt Claire Viewpoint - Mt. Baker	85	Third	Yes		X	X	X	X			X	X	X		
Belvedere VP (Admiral)	90	Second	Yes	X			X				X	X		X	